



Journey Middle School

217 Celtic Drive, Madison, Alabama 35758

ELA 8

Ms. Shandi N. Silk

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Classroom Digital Platforms	Webpage Link Distribution List Link
Textbook Information	StudySync Grade 8, McGraw-Hill
Course Description	<p>To help students prepare for college and future careers, the foundation for 8th Grade Language Arts stems from the Alabama College and Career Ready Standards for incoming 8th graders who will eventually progress to 9th grade Language Arts. The content standards focus on four specific areas: reading, writing, speaking and listening, and language. In 8th grade, students will analyze a variety of literature and informational text. The reading standards will require students to read and analyze a variety of fiction and informational texts to determine how literary devices interact, identify central themes, examine author’s craft, and support these findings with textual evidence. Students will be guided through the research and writing process to produce writing in the narrative, expository, and persuasive modes along with guiding and implementing the Madison City writing curriculum, Claim-Data-Commentary. In addition, students will engage effectively in a variety of collaborative discussions and adapt speech to a variety of contexts and tasks along with building on and responding to the ideas of others. Outside reading and summer reading are required.</p>
Course Objectives	<p>Students will develop and strengthen critical thinking skills by reading, comprehending, and engaging with both literary and informational texts. Students will make text-to-text, text-to-world, and text-to-self connections. Students will be able to identify, define, and duplicate examples of figurative language found in texts. They will demonstrate their understanding of the text through various formative and summative assessments. Students will display the convergence of their independent thoughts and textual examples in the writing of paragraphs and essays, as well as develop clear and concise writing skills through the execution of writing assignments and the application of proofreading and editing skills. Students will also improve their writing through the increased understanding and application of grammar, mechanics, and vocabulary skills. Students will be able to respectfully engage critically and constructively in a dialogue of ideas through class discussion, small group assignments, and project-based learning. Students will develop and display clear written and verbal communication skills.</p>
Course Outline	<p>Unit 1: <i>Sunny</i> by Jason Reynolds & review of 7th grade literary skills Unit 2: <i>The Outsiders</i> by S.E. Hinton Unit 3: Narrative Writing Unit 4: Short Stories (“The Monkey’s Paw,” “The Tell Tale Heart,” and others) Unit 5: Argumentative Writing Unit 1 Unit 6: Dystopian Literature Circles Unit 7: “The Diary of Anne Frank: Play Edition” Unit 8: Holocaust Research & Essay Writing Unit 9: ACAP Review Unit 10: ACT Writing & Selected Literature Circles <i>Grammar & vocabulary embedded throughout the school year.</i> <u><i>*This is subject to change at teacher discretion.</i></u></p>

<p>Classroom Expectations</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Be respectful, and be responsible. ● Cell phones are silenced and placed in an assigned pouch at the start of class. ● Bring your school issued chromebook and charger to school. ● Charge your chromebook at home.
<p>Progressive Discipline</p>	<p>Step 1: Verbal warning Step 2: Student/teacher conference Step 3: Parent contact/conference Step 4: Detention and a parent contact Step 5: Office referral</p>
<p>Grading Policy</p>	<p>60% = Assessments (Tests, Essays, Projects) 40% = Daily Grades (Quizzes, Homework, Classwork, and Participation)</p>
<p>Late Work Policy</p>	<p>Late work is accepted with a penalty of 10% of every day it is late. I will not accept late work after the nine-week term is over. Please communicate with me in advance if there is an extenuating circumstance. I am here to help and work with you!</p>
<p>Make-up Work/Test Policy</p>	<p>Students with excused absences can make up all work within three days of returning to school. It is the student's responsibility to ask for and/or schedule make-up work. After three days, any incomplete or missing work will become a zero (including quizzes/tests). Students who score below a 65% on a test are eligible for a retake. However, students may not score above 85% on their second test. Students are responsible for coordinating and scheduling a retake with their teacher.</p>
<p>Technology</p>	<p>Student laptops should not be hard-wired to the network or have print capabilities. Use of discs, flash drives, jump drives, or other USB devices will not be allowed on Madison City computers. Neither the teacher nor the school is responsible for broken, stolen, or lost laptops. Laptops and other electronic devices will be used at the individual discretion of the teacher.</p>
<p>Accommodations</p>	<p>Requests for accommodations for this course or any school event are welcomed from students and parents.</p>
<p>Turnitin Notice (ELA Classes only)</p>	<p>The majority of writing assignments in this course will be submitted to Turnitin via the Schoology learning platform. The primary focus of this software is to help students become better writers and scholars. Turnitin generates a report on the originality of student writing by comparing it with a database of periodicals, books, online content, student papers, and other published work. This program will help students discern when they are using sources fairly, citing properly, and paraphrasing effectively—skills essential to all academic work. Students will have the opportunity to review their Turnitin originality report and will have the opportunity to make revisions before submitting their work for grading. Once their work is submitted, teachers can view the student's originality report and grade accordingly.</p>
<p>Materials & Supplies</p>	<p>One 1-inch three-ring binder, loose-leaf notebook paper, pencils/pens, and assorted highlighters. Please bring your school-issued Chromebook and charger to class every day. You will also need headphones or earbuds with an auxiliary jack cord. We will read several novels this year. It is NOT required that you purchase these, but it is suggested. Please do not read these novels ahead of time, except the summer reading novel. <i>Sunny</i> by Jason Reynolds (Summer Reading) <i>The Outsiders</i> by S.E. Hinton “The Diary of Anne Frank: Play Edition” by Albert Goodrich and Frances Hackett Students will read ONE of the following texts for our literature circle unit: <i>The Hunger Games</i> by Suzanne Collins <i>The Maze Runner</i> by James Dashner <i>Anthem</i> by Ayn Rand <i>The Roar</i> by Emma Clayton</p>
<p>Homework</p>	<p>During novel studies, students may be asked to read outside of class. Excluding novel studies, homework is rarely assigned. It is typically an extension of the day's lesson and/or work not completed in class.</p>
<p>Parent & Student Acknowledgment Form</p>	<p>Complete this Acknowledgement Form after reading this syllabus.</p>

